



Hudak slams LHIN model

Ontario PC leader continues to challenge McGuirtry



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Saturday, March 13, 2010



Mary McLelland-Papp stands next to the CN 6218, which has been on display at the Fort Erie Railroad Museum since 1973. She is the chairwoman of the recently-formed Fort Erie Historical Railway Association and is looking for volunteers who are interested in helping with fundraising efforts to restore the local historic symbol.

History needs help

Railway Association formed to raise funds for restoration

Kris Dubé
The Times

People and funding are needed to come aboard for the great northern steam locomotive CN6218.

Located at the Fort Erie Railroad Museum on Central Avenue, the train built in 1942 and moved here in 1973 is on track to needing repairs that will cost a total of \$425,000.

At the Town of Fort Erie's recent departmental budget meeting, the Fort Erie Historical Railway Association made a request of \$100,000 from council to go towards restoring the deteriorating engine. Council didn't follow through with the entire ask, but did agree to allocate \$50,000 for this year with expectations that the next council will be able to provide the other \$50,000.

"I think having a \$50,000 commitment from council is a really positive sign of support," said museum administrator Jane Davies.

See Page 2

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Locomotive used to be pride of Fort Erie, says volunteer

From Page 1

Although Davies feels this is a good start for the stationary train, there is still a long track ahead. She said this funding is a welcomed addition to capital funding

already in place for this year and expected to be provided next year, but hopes enough can be raised to finish renovating the train and the tracks it sits on all in one effort and not just a little bit at a time.

"Once you pull it all apart,

you need to have the money to put it back together," said Davies.

When CN retired the locomotive in 1969, six municipalities were competing to be the recipients of it to display as a centerpiece of history in their communities

and Fort Erie came out as the successor.

"Council lobbied pretty hard back then to bring it to Fort Erie," said Davies.

Mary McLelland-Papp, of the recently formed Fort Erie Historical Railway Association says a fund-raising goal of \$73,000 has been set but participation from the local community and beyond is desperately needed. A campaign to seek memberships from corporations, individuals and other volunteers who are interested in doing their part to make the train's restoration a reality is now in effect, saying anyone who wants to become involved will be appreciated.

"Hopefully we can utilize everyone in some way at some point," said McLelland-Papp, who is also vice-chair of the Museum and Cultural Heritage Committee.

She said at one point 55

“

It's a symbol of a large part of Fort Erie's history."

— Mary McLelland-Papp

per cent of the Fort Erie population was employed by the CN, which is proof that the engine is an important part of this town's historical identity.

"It's a symbol of a large part of Fort Erie's history," she said.

When the 6218 first arrived in Fort Erie in the early 70s, she said it was a time when the local community was very excited about the monument. Now, there doesn't seem to be

nearly as much excitement.

"Today, we're in a very different kind of environment," said McLelland-Papp.

She wants the local community and government to be proud of the locomotive again, making it a place that tourists will remember about their time in Fort Erie and a landmark that residents will talk about again.

"If you have your history on display, you're more easy to identify," she said.

She also wanted to thank Dave Renshaw, chair of the Museum and Cultural Heritage Committee, who was unable to meet with the Times this week, for all his hard work on identifying the problems with the train and formulating a plan of what needs to be done.

"He's been the driving force," she said.

Anyone interested in volunteering with this project can call McLelland-Papp at (905) 894-8451.

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Freedom Park sculpture gets a boost

Peace Bridge Authority donates \$50,000

Kris Dubé
The Times

The idea of the Freedom Park Sculpture, to commemorate Fort Erie's role in black heritage is one step closer to becoming a reality, after it was announced at Monday's council meeting that \$50,000 has been donated by the Peace Bridge Authority (PBA).

To be located along the Niagara Parkway, on lands owned by the Niagara Parks Commission, the bronze sculpture will be designed to illustrate the role Fort Erie played during slavery as a portal for the underground railroad.

Ward 5 Coun. Martha

Lockwood said the sculpture will be a "beautiful representation" of this part of Fort Erie's history but won't only symbolize the trials and tribulations those who used the underground railroad endured, but will touch on a lot more than that.

"It's really about the story of all immigrants," said Lockwood.

Ward 1 Coun. Sandy Annunziata expressed his appreciation for the PBA's involvement in the community, saying it never hesitates to support ventures like this one that emphasize the area's history and culture.

"Their contribution is greatly appreciated and is one of those community leaders that steps to the forefront and shapes the cultural landscape of the community," said Annunziata.

Ward 2 Coun. Rick Shular agrees that the PBA is a local corporation that comes for-

ward on a regular basis to support local initiatives like this.

"We look forward to this donation and continuing to work with them," he said.

Mayor Doug Martin echoed the comments heard around the table, saying the PBA has been a great partner for many projects in the past and will continue to be for many to come.

"They always come through," he said.

Rino Mostacci, the Town of Fort Erie's director of planning and development services says this contribution puts the project's funding at about the halfway point, expecting the overall cost to be a little less than \$300,000.

He said a sculptor to create

the life-size monument has not yet been commissioned which can't be done until the Town has the majority of the funding in place, due to procurement policies.

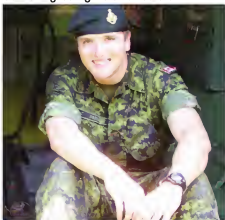
In order to be eligible for additional money, Mostacci said a non-profit group might have to be established to continue with fund-raising efforts.

"As a municipality, we don't qualify for a lot of foundation grants," he said.

He also said council may be presented with the option to allocate a portion of the cost once more funds are donated or raised.

"If we're close enough, I think council will give consideration to awarding it," he said.

Gathering being held for soldier



Next Saturday, family and friends of Cpl. James Hudson will be wishing him luck at the Royal Canadian Legion Br. 230, before he heads out on his first tour to Afghanistan. The event starts at 1 p.m.

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Hudak says LHIN model is severely flawed

Ontario PC leader feels decisions shouldn't be made by unelected individuals

Kris Dubé
The Times

Ontario PC leader Tim Hudak says if he is the next premier, he will do his best to scrap the idea of Local Health Integration Network (LHIN)s.

In a phone interview with the Times on

Thursday, Hudak said the Liberal government's model of delivery of health care doesn't provide the benefits it should for patients and only allows for people in management positions to be overpaid and unaccountable for important decisions that affect the entire province.

"It has directed hundreds

of millions of dollars, that could have been used for front line care," said Hudak.

He said a better method the province should follow is investing more money into hiring more medical staff for under-served areas like Fort Erie and Port Colborne, instead of increasing the wages of

some management positions by upwards of 150 per cent.

He continued by calling the LHIN model a "veil" for McGuinty to hide behind and said he should be held responsible for hospital restructuring across the province, which he feels has a negative impact on residents.

"These are unaccountable, unelected and largely anonymous individuals

who are making crucial decisions for health care in our communities," said Hudak.

There are 14 LHIN's in Ontario, which were implemented by the ministry of health and long-term care in 2006. They are non-profit organizations that work with health providers and community members to determine medical priorities in different regions of the province.

The Fort Erie Times

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TASC Niagara needs help with ambitious project

➤ Non-profit wants to build \$20 million residence and therapy centre

Kris Dubé
The Times

The people behind TASC Niagara are continuing to help people with disabilities and their families...but at the same time, they need help too.

The Ridgeway-based non-profit that specializes in providing programs and services for families dealing with disabilities has big plans for the future, but the funding simply isn't there.

Fundraising director Walter Deveau and presi-

dent Nancy Kacur have been working to find a way to bring a residence and therapy centre to the Niagara region, they both estimate will cost up to \$20 million.

There are 12 websites such as www.shopeniagara.ca that have been created to raise money for TASC, where local businesses can advertise their services with the money benefitting the organization.

Kacur said TASC has held several fundraising events such as barbecues and dinners to raise money and the support of the community is greatly appreciated, but it still isn't enough.

"We never seem to get ahead," she said.

Deveau agrees with Kacur, saying TASC is grateful of all the small donations made, but funding needs to come in on a much larger scale, to make the residence and

therapy centre more of a possibility.

"With the project we're undertaking, you need to have continuous funding," he said.

Kacur feels funding needs to be put in place and are hopeful grant applications submitted by TASC will be successful to get them closer to the ambitious goal of \$20 million.

Small donations from members of the community and people who advertise on the list of websites associated with TASC are great, she said, but she understands non-profit organizations aren't the only ones struggling financially right now.

"You can only go to people with hat in hand so many times," she said.

Anyone interested in contributing to TASC's initiative can call (905) 894-1768.

Rekindling a tradition



April Doxtator taking part in some traditional aboriginal dancing at last Saturday's 15th annual Rekindling Our Traditions mid-winter powwow at the Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre. About 300 people attended the event throughout the day.

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opinion page

The
Fort Erie Times

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our editorial

Don't be afraid to check out our website

Just because we're a weekly newspaper, it doesn't mean we only work on stories a day before you get your paper on Saturday morning.

As local issues happen, we do our best to get stories written and posted to our website www.forterietimes.com as quickly as possible.

So if you are a die hard Fort Erie Times fan and can't wait until Saturday to read about what happened at Monday's council meeting or why you saw fire trucks and emergency vehicles responding to a serious call...check our website. You just might find what you are looking for.

We've been adding stories to

our Facebook group for almost a year now and many people seem to be enjoying this option, but for those who don't use the social networking site to gather information on the Internet, skip a step and go straight to our website.

Some people have recently told us they didn't know we had a website or that they were unaware of us making news available to our readers days before Saturday's paper shows up in their driveway. It's true...we do.

Don't be afraid to check us out on the web and continue to leave us feedback.

-Kris Dubé



Do You Remember?

It's wonderful that these Do You Remember pictures are discussed by friends and family who have moved away. This week we heard from Deep River in northern Ontario and from Austin Texas. Gail Ineson Lancaster is now living in Deep River and was the teacher in last week's photo. It was taken at General Vanier School during Canada's Centennial year, 1967. From left to right are Wilf Foreman, unknown, Gail Ineson, Trudie Goulding and Colin

Robertson. Mr. Robertson's sister told us that he was the principal and that he had also held that position at Rose Seaton and Mather School. Trudie's mother, Phyllis Goulding, called and noted that Trudie's dress was part of a Mother/Daughter matching set that she made for Centennial Year. Thanks as well to Councillor Rick Shular who called in with these identifications. The e-mail we received from Austin, Texas was from Ron Hill, who

provided further information about the Feb. 20th photo of the ladies' league of bowlers. We will add the information he provided about the Ryan family to our archives. Thanks to everyone for reading and forwarding this feature, and for contacting us. This week's photo shows a group of Boy Scouts and their leader. Are you in the photo yourself or do you know anyone in it? Please call the Museum at (905) 894-5322 or send an email to museum@forterietimes.com.

Let's get excited about historic locomotive



Kris Dubé
Editor's Notebook

This is a train we need to get back on track.

If you read a newspaper starting at the front, you already know that the CN6218 at the Fort Erie Railroad Museum on Central Avenue is in need of almost a half of a

million dollars to restore it back to what local history buffs feel is necessary.

When I first heard at a recent departmental operating budget meeting that this was the amount needed, I was shocked.

This is a huge amount of money and council's decision to allocate \$50,000 of the \$100,000 being requested was a generous contribution in my opinion.

It's up to the next

council to decide whether it wants to be all aboard for the other half of the money requested by the Fort Erie Historical Museum to restore the symbolic locomotive.

In many of my editor's notebooks, I've played the old "lived here my whole life" card when discussing local issues and I apologize if I use it too often, but once again it applies to this matter.

I remember taking field trips to the site when I was a student at Our

Lady of Victory and it seeming to be a much bigger deal than what people of all demographics realize it to be nowadays.

When I met with staff from the museum and the recently formed Fort Erie Historical Railway Association this week for the story you read in this week's paper, they were nothing short of accurate and correct when saying this historical site has become under-visited and has fallen to the wayside of what intrigues people

about Fort Erie.

I am too young to remember, but I have been told that when the train was awarded to the Town of Fort Erie, it was a huge celebration and everyone was proud to welcome it as part of the local community's identity.

Now, people have either forgotten about it or simply don't realize how rough of shape it is in.

It's pretty bad.

Let's turn this train

around and make it one of the many things local residents can be proud of.

The railway association is in desperate need of fundraising money and it's up to businesses and people in the community with deep pockets and an appreciation for local history to step up and put some steam into this engine.

If you would like to leave me feedback, call me at (905) 871-3100 or send me an email at editorial@forterietimes.com.

opinion page

Reader provides open letter to McGuinty

Dear Mr. McGuinty,

Recently, I received a letter from you acknowledging your receipt of the Compendium we sent out about our Town Hall type forum held on Jan. 20th, stating that you appreciate our concerns about emergency care and recognize the importance of this issue to us.

You went on, of course, with the usual rhetoric regarding the new 375 bed NHS health care complex being built in St. Catharines. And yes Mr. Premier, I knew about the groundbreaking in April of last year. I was standing there in the rain, watching all the pomp and ceremony at the gala event. They had more mounted policemen there, than we had protesters. What a show of force. It was laughable and ridiculous. What did they think a handful of senior citizens were going to do? Even the police looked uncomfortable and embarrassed.

You go on about how funding has been increased by more than \$95 million, does the Sunshine list come out of that figure as it will certainly eat up much of the patient care allotment.?

You tell me about 375 beds in this new edifice, but you don't take into consideration all the beds that your government closed in

the Niagara region, and many of the 375 beds are already earmarked for specific cases, so there really are not many beds for the residents who are ill and need hospitalization.

Your letter goes on to say that your goal for the citizens of Niagara has been - and continues to be - to strengthen and improve health care: by a sustainable NHS and that you understand the concern change can bring. By change, do you mean the cessation of health care to people of Niagara? Did you actually read the compendium and the stories told by the people that spoke? Did you watch, listen and feel the emotion, fear and anger at the threat of loss, and of the threat of death, because of your changes.

Your much touted complex is being erected in the wrong place. It is in the northwestern edge of Niagara, close to Hamilton which already has many well equipped hospitals and is certainly not in the centre of the Niagara Peninsula. If you don't understand that, look at the map. If that complex is in the centre of Niagara most of the people would have to live in Lake Ontario, Toronto and Hamilton. Draw a circle around it and see for yourself. This new building is taking place of the two existing hospitals in St.

Catharines and according to the NHS those hospitals are going to be sold or demolished.

You go on to say that a number of services will still be available at the Douglas Memorial Site and the UCC will provide quality accessible health care to the citizens. Didn't you read the compendium? What services? "A number of services will still be available" is a rather tongue in cheek way of double speak.

The NHS has taken the life of the Douglas Memorial and it is a mere shell of what it was. The once active caring hospital has been changed into a storage facility with a few beds for hard to place patients, sent from other areas. There is a feeling of death and dying and it shows.

You closed your letter by saying that you passed the information on to Deb Matthews as it would interest her. Well she received her own copy and wasn't interested enough to respond. You also thanked us for our views, and stated that you remain committed to making sure that all Ontarians get the best possible health care and asked us to accept your best wishes.

Yes, Mr. Premier. Back at you!

Joey Russell
Ridgeway

The TIMES Asks

What will you be doing as the weather continues to grow warmer?



Matthew Lawson

"I'm going to start fishing, swimming and waking my dog down by the water."



Nick Watts

"I can't wait to go paintballing and biking because I'm sick of the cold."



Khalil McMorris

"I can't wait to get my swimming pool open."



Tim McMorris

"I'll be right here on Jarvis Street, hoping for some new development."

What do you think?

E-mail: editorial@forterietimes.com or call 905-871-3100, ext. 207

Take The Times



Recently, local residents Betty Baugher and Sheila Ottermann took the Times to the Palm Creek Resort in Casa Grande, Arizona. Thanks for taking us along.

AGM - Just a Little Reminder...

Our 59th Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday March 16, 2010.

Don't forget that this year's AGM meeting will take place at Bridgewater Golf and Country Club on Gilmore Road in Fort Erie. Doors will open at 6:30 pm and the meeting will start at 7:00 pm. Door prizes will be drawn throughout and refreshments will be served following the event.

Everyone is welcome!

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The Town's By-Law Enforcement Officers will be enforcing any enforcement of By-Law No. 2000-89. Your vehicle will be issued a parking ticket and could be towed, at your expense, if found in violation of the by-law. Enquiries may be directed to the Town's By-Law Enforcement Officers by calling (905) 871-1600, Extension 2216 (Geoff Stephenson) or Extension 2215 (Jack Cook).

Carolyn J. Kent, A.M.C.I.T., Town Clerk, Town of Fort Erie

(2) TOWN OF FORT ERIE - 2010 MARCH BREAK - PUBLIC SKATING

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March 15th	2:00 - 3:30 pm	\$1.50/Person
March 16th	7:00 - 9:00 pm	\$2.50/Person
March 18th	2:00 - 3:30 pm	\$1.50/Person
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March 21st	2:00 - 3:30 pm	\$1.50/Person
Crystal Ridge Arena:		
March 12th	8:00 - 10:00 pm	\$2.50/Person
March 17th	1:00 - 2:30 pm	\$1.50/Person
March 19th	8:00 - 10:00 pm	\$2.50/Person

(3) **EARTH HOUR**
Saturday, March 27, 2010
from 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Join cities and towns around the globe in sending a powerful international and global message that it's possible to live alone on global warming by

Turning Off the Lights for One Hour on March 27

Spread the word about Earth Hour to your neighbours, friends, family members and co-workers. For further information check out www.earthhour.org.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

(1) **EXPRESSION OF INTEREST**
CS-01-2010

REAL ESTATE SERVICES FOR SALE OF MUNICIPAL PROPERTY

The Corporation of the Town of Fort Erie is seeking proposals from real estate broker firms interested in listing and marketing for sale the following property: 1550 Point Abino Road South, locally known as the "Point Abino Lighthouse Keepers' Dwelling".

Sealed replies to this Expression of Interest, clearly identified as **Expression of Interest CS-01-2010 (Real Estate Services for Sale of Municipal Property)**, will be received by Carolyn Kent, Clerk, until 2:00 p.m., Friday, March 26, 2010.

Times of Reference may be picked-up at the Reception Desk, 1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie, ON starting Monday, March 15, 2010, or obtained by facsimile or e-mail upon request by contacting Nick Steinhilber, Manager of Supply & Service at (905) 871-1600, Ext. 2305.



EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

(1) **ACCOUNTING ANALYST**
(Up to one year)

With strong analytical skills, you will support the Manager, Accounting Services by performing investigative and detailed accounting duties with an emphasis on internal audit procedures and controls. Among other things, you will assist in maintaining the general ledger, monitor transactions, prepare reconciliations and reports of all balance sheet accounts, and prepare payment vouchers. With strong customer service orientation and experience in AR and AP, you have a relevant four-year undergraduate degree and two years experience. Priority for this position is given to candidates with a relevant four-year undergraduate degree and two years experience. Priority for this position is given to candidates with a relevant four-year undergraduate degree and two years experience. Priority for this position is given to candidates with a relevant four-year undergraduate degree and two years experience.

Submit a detailed resume by 5:00 p.m. EOT on **FRIDAY, March 19, 2010**. Competition No. 04-2010, Human Resources, Town of Fort Erie, 1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie, ON, L2A 2S6. Fax: 905 871 4022. email: hr@forterie.on.ca (MS Word, OpenOffice or pdf). More information is available at www.town.forterie.on.ca under the Town Hall. Candidates selected for an interview will be notified. This evaluation process includes a practical assessment. Personal information is collected pursuant to the Municipal Act, 2001 to determine employment suitability.

(2) **ELECTION ASSISTANT - (April - October)**
Competition No. 06-2010

In this exciting temporary position, you will work closely with/support the Town Clerk in the conduct of the 2010 municipal election. A creative, self-directed individual you will help develop/maintain the election schedule, assist with nomination process, assist with recruitment/balancing of election staff, assemble training materials, prepare/circulate/distribute ballot and secure voters lists, ballots, documents, forms, signage and other materials; arrange for polling locations; coordinate the operations/management of voting equipment/technology, assist with the coordination/evaluation/practicalization of election results and election statistics; receive/respond to questions from the public; assist members of the public with registration/documentation; assist with related software programs and vote tabulating equipment.

Qualifications include:

- Post-secondary education in related field or equivalent combination of education and experience
- Six months up to one year of relevant experience
- Knowledge of municipal government and election process
- Advanced organizational, project management, communication and customer service skills
- Demonstrated ability to operate/assemble short computer hardware, software and office equipment
- Ability to independently prioritize/organize/complete multiple assignments, with a high level of accuracy, under tight deadlines
- Ability to work effectively in a team

This temporary position offers an hourly rate of \$22.50-\$27.50, based on 37.5 hours per week, subject to experience and qualifications. There are no benefits, other than those required by law.

Submit a detailed resume by 5:00 p.m. EOT on **FRIDAY, March 26, 2010** to: Human Resources, Town of Fort Erie, 1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie, ON, L2A 2S6. Fax: 905 871 4022. email: hr@forterie.on.ca (MS Word, OpenOffice or pdf). More information is available at www.town.forterie.on.ca under the Town Hall. Candidates selected for an interview will be notified. This evaluation process may include a practical assessment. Personal information is collected pursuant to the Municipal Act, 2001 to determine employment suitability.

(3) **STANDBY SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD**
COMPETITION NO. 7-2010

Applications are invited for a standby School Crossing Guard. This is a part-time seasonal opportunity for the balance of the school year.

Qualified applicants must have an Ontario Secondary School Diploma or equivalent or documented experience, and be willing to work outdoors in what are sometimes adverse weather conditions.

Standby Crossing Guards are not assigned to a specific point or school crossing location on a permanent basis but must be available on all school days to "fill in" at various points or school crossing locations when required. Standby Crossing Guards must have a vehicle and be able to travel to any school location as designated by the Crossing Guard Coordinator. Standby Crossing Guards will be assigned to work at various locations throughout the school year. Standby Crossing Guards will receive pay for days on the schedule to which they are available to work and required to be available by the employer but do not work. The rate of pay for a Standby Crossing Guard is \$12.07 per day. The rate of pay for a regular shift as a Crossing Guard is \$12.57 per hour.

Preference will be given to persons who have experience as School Crossing Guards. Offers of employment are conditional upon the successful applicant providing the Town with a police Clearance Certificate 2. Successful applicants must also be available for and attend training; interested applicants are invited to submit a resume, in confidence;

Human Resources - Competition #7-2010

Town of Fort Erie
1 Municipal Centre
Fort Erie, ON, L2A 2S6
(905) 871-1600 ext. 2302 Fax: (905) 871-9984
Email: hr@forterie.on.ca

ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY MARCH 27, 2010

Persons who have in the past, submitted unsolicited applications/resumes are encouraged to re-apply to be considered. Only those candidates selected for an interview will be contacted. Personal information is collected under the **Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and the Municipal Act, 2001**, as amended, for the purposes of employment recruitment.

(4) **SUMMER STUDENT EMPLOYMENT**
(April 15 - October 15) - Competition #03-2010

The Corporation is now accepting applications for summer student employment opportunities in the following service areas:

- Parks, Cemeteries, Facilities and Roads Labourers
- Horticulture
- Museums - Research and Operations
- Engineering Support
- Office/Administration

Full details and an application form can be viewed at www.town.forterie.on.ca, "Town Hall", then click on Employment Opportunities. The form is also available at Town Hall and the Gibson Centre. Send the application form and a resume to: SUMMER STUDENT EMPLOYMENT, Human Resources, Town of Fort Erie, 1 Municipal Centre Drive, Fort Erie, ON, L2A 2S6. Fax: (905) 871-4022 E-mail: hr@forterie.on.ca (MS Word or pdf preferred).

The deadline for submitting your application is **5:00 p.m. FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 2010**.

Only applications chosen for interviews will be considered. Personal information is collected pursuant to the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended to determine eligibility for employment.

Young author can't stop writing

➤ 14-year-old already working on two other projects

Kris Dubé
The Times

It isn't a very often you'll hear about a 14-year-old completing their first novel with two more already in progress.

Lexie Hancock, of Stevensville, welcomed a group of 40 fans at the Fort Erie Public Library (FEPL)'s centennial branch last Saturday to launch her first publication titled *Enemies of the Dark: Dark Love* that is available at all FEPL branches and at the From Cover to Cover Bookstore in Ridgeway.

Lexie said she is very proud of her recent accomplishment but all the media attention and fanfare she has been the subject of lately is overwhelming in a way.

"I'm not used to being the centre of attention," said Lexie, who is also a grade nine student at Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School (RCBHS).

A popular phenomenon with people in Lexie's demographic is the *Twilight* series, that has been adapted to Hollywood blockbuster movies. Lexie said she was never a big fan of these books and her inspiration for this genre started when she read *The Vampire Diaries* by L.J. Smith.

"I never really got into *Twilight*," she said.

With everyone recognizing her hand work and creativity with her novel, Lexie says she isn't going to stop here and has great plans for the future and her writing career.

"I'm pretty sure I'm going to keep writing more books," she said.

Amy Roebuck, community services co-ordinator with the FEPL, said many book signings and author visits have been held at the library over the years but never a book launch. What makes this recent event special is the fact that it surrounds a 14-year-old writing a complete novel that is very well-written.

"We've never hosted an author so young," she said.

Roebuck continued by saying the event

was the idea of the library's teen advisory group, which she agreed was a great suggestion and a wonderful opportunity for the young author to showcase her work to the community.

"It's great when it's someone local who is just starting out," said Roebuck.

Her mother Sue Hancock also pointed out that Lexie has become a finalist in a national poetry contest she submitted to as a student at RCBHS, saying she agrees this is only the start for her successful writing career.

"We're very proud of everything she's done," said Sue.

Lexie will be available to discuss her novel at upcoming book signings. There will be one at the From Cover to Cover Bookstore on March 27 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., and the Stevensville Garden Gallery on Mar. 13 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The Coles Book Store in Seaway Mall in Welland has also agreed to host a book signing for Lexie on Mar. 19.



Last Saturday, local 14-year-old author Lexie Hancock, second from left, launched her novel 'Enemies of the Dark: Dark Love' at the Fort Erie Public Library's centennial branch. She was joined by friends Alex Craddock, left, and Haley Berry who are on the cover of the book and Colleen Matthews, who she dedicated the book to.

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Port Colborne High School 211 Elgin Street, Port Colborne Day Program	Wed, March 24 th Room 314 1:00 p.m.
Oakwood Park Lodge 6747 Oakwood Drive, Nias, Falls Eve & Wed Program	Sat, March 27 th Garden Room 11:00 a.m.

District School Board of Niagara
Community Education Services
905-687-7000 psw@edn.edu.ni.ca

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by Allen H. Wilson, M.Sc.
Hearing & Hearing Aids
Audiologist

DEFINING YOUR HEARING LOSS

There are two general categories of hearing loss. "Conductive" losses, involving the outer and middle ear, are usually treated with medication, surgery, or even ear wax removal. So-called "sensorineural" losses, on the other hand, involve the inner ear including the small-shaped cochlea, the tiny hair cells inside the cochlea, and the auditory nerve leading to the brain. The most common problem associated with this latter type of loss has to do with the dying hair cells that result from aging or exposure to noise. Generally, when the hair cells die, the ability to hear high frequencies is lost first. If so, the use of a hearing instrument may help them to hear better, but they lose their sounds and better understood speech.

Many people throughout the world have problems with their hearing. In North America alone, more than 20 million people, of all ages, of both genders, struggle with some degree of hearing loss. And your ability to hear is as unique as your fingerprints—no two people have exactly the same impairment. That's why it is so important to meet with an audiologist who can custom design a solution to each individual's hearing needs. Optimize your hearing capabilities and call us at **HEARING & HEARING CENTRE**, 905-871-4202, to arrange a hearing test at 660 Garsden Road, Unit 12.

P.S. Symptoms of sensorineural hearing loss include hearing sounds in a quieter, distorted and less clear manner, as well as failure to distinguish consonants such as "L" and "R" from one another.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE Regional Road 122 (Thompson Road) Between Regional Road 21 (Bowen Road) and Regional Road 19 (Gilmore Road) In the Town of Fort Erie

Motorists and the general public are hereby advised that Regional Road 122 (Thompson Road) will be temporarily closed to through traffic between Regional Road 21 (Bowen Road) and Regional Road 19 (Gilmore Road) on Monday March 15, 2010 until Friday, April 9, 2010.

A detour route will be posted along Regional Road 21 (Phipps Street) to Regional Road 124 (Central Avenue) to Regional Road 19 (Gilmore Road) for passenger vehicles.

Trucks exceeding a height of 3.70 metres on Regional Road 21 (Bowen Road) must use Pettit Road south to Regional Road 19 (Gilmore Road) as the CN railway bridge on Regional Road 122 (Thompson Road), north of Regional Road 21 (Bowen Road) has a maximum height restriction of 3.70 metres.

This closure is necessary to construct a sanitary sewage pumping station and foreman.

Any inquiries concerning this project may be directed to David Gianfrancesco, Gibbons Contracting, cell number 905-651-4698.

The co-operation of the motoring public during this period of inconvenience will be appreciated.

Kenneth J. Brothers, P. Eng.
Commissioner of Public Works
Regional Municipality of Niagara

www.niagara-region.ca

The puck is set to drop for eighth annual Mayor's Cup

Charity hockey game to benefit the Head Injury Association of Fort Erie on Friday

Matt Day
The Times

If there's one thing in Canada that can bring people together, it's a good old fashioned hockey game.

Organizers of the eighth annual Mayor's Cup are hoping the community will come out Friday to the Leisureplex to watch the Mayor's team take on the Canada Border Services team in a charity event to raise money for the Head Injury Association of Fort Erie (HIAFE).

Beginning at 4 p.m. on the Jaycee Arena, the major fundraiser for HIAFE is

expected to raise more than \$3,000 which will go towards fitness, music therapy, cognitive therapy and life skills programs offered at the Niagara Boulevard facility.

Donna Summerville, program director at HIAFE, said in the past the community has rallied together for this event and hopes this year is no different.

"Almost everyone knows someone who is dealing with the effects of a brain injury and that's why I think the community supports what we do so much," she said.

"It's a very serious disability that lasts forever and to host a fun game where people will enjoy the themselves while raising money is a win-win situation."

HIAFE funding is limited to local fund raising events and charity run bingos, but with bingo revenues con-

tinuing to drop, initiatives like this are becoming more and more crucial in order to keep services running.

Mayor Doug Martin said although he can't attend the game, he fully supports everything that HIAFE stands for and will be giving some coaching tips to acting mayor Martha Lockwood who will take

over bench boss duties for the game.

"It's a great event and that organization does so much for families in our town. I encourage everyone to come out and watch the game," he said.

Last year, the Customs team took over bragging rights from the Mayor's team, but Martin said he doesn't mind the occasion-

al ribbing as long as HIAFE benefits.

"Fund raising in town has been rough the last couple of years and I think anything we can do from a town perspective is worthwhile in assisting them."

Following the game, an award ceremony will be taking place in the banquet hall which will also include a silent auction, cocktails

and dinner. The evening will continue with a dance, door prizes and ongoing raffles.

Tickets for the event are \$20 and are available by contacting the head office at (905) 871-7789.

Since HIAFE's induction in the town in 1987, more than 300 individuals and families have received support.


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Deanie Dubé

Deanie volunteered in the classroom when her son was growing up so after retirement volunteering as an In School Mentor was a natural fit. "It only takes one hour a week. I can't understand why anyone wouldn't do it," says the enthusiastic volunteer.

Deanie and her mentee Jade read, play games and "play school" during their hour together. "Jade is always the teacher when we play. I get as much fun and enjoyment as I give."

If you have just one hour a week to give to be an In School Mentor or are interested in any other of our programs call us. Don't wait there are children waiting to be matched.



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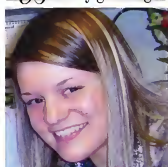
Births
Willick - Karen and Glen of Welland are pleased to announce the birth of their first son **Andrew Joseph Willick**, born on January 4th at the Welland Hospital at 9:56 a.m., weighing 8 lbs. 6 ozs.
Proud grandmother is Charlotte Willick of Welland and great-grandparents are Glen and Audrey Colombo of Crystal Beach, Great-great-grandmother is Hazel Blisset of P.S. Happy 80th Birthday to Hazel Blisset and Pappy 16th Birthday to Carrie Willick, both on March 24th

Birthdays



Happy 16th Birthday, Sarah
Love Mommy, Daddy, and Jason.

Birthdays



Happy 16th Birthday Sarah Angel
"Sweet 16"
LOVE,
Nonnie, Auntie Di and Aunt Susie



Want to tell the special people in your life how much you care? Announce their birthday in the newspaper for a great surprise and a lasting keepsake. Call Classified Extra at 1-866-541-6757 for a unique gift idea.

Deaths

MATTHEWS, Richard N. - died at the Welland County General Hospital on Thursday, March 11, 2010, after a short illness. Predeceased by his father Harold Leonard Matthews in 1983, and his brother William Leonard Matthews in 1986. Survived by his sons Sean Matthews and Ritchie Matthews, mother Patricia Ann Matthews, sister Dianne Fretz (Jim), aunts Donna Bernier, Mildred Steeves, uncles Don Hall (Joan) and Jerry Hall, nieces Stacey Lancaster (Craig Overholt), nephew James Fretz (Krisla), great nieces Samantha Lancaster, Victoria Lancaster and Carerra Fretz, also survived by many cousins. Cremation has taken place. Graveside service in Greenwood Cemetery, Fort Erie, to take place at a later date. Donations to the Canadian Diabetes Association would be appreciated. Funeral arrangements entrusted to **DAVIDSON FUNERAL HOME**, 135 Clarence St., Port Colborne. Online condolences and guest register available at www.davidsonfuneralhome.com.

Deaths

VITELLO, Brigida (Bridget) - it is with saddened hearts that we announce the passing of Brigida Vitello on March 10th, 2010 in her 83rd year. Beloved wife of 61 years of Ariello "Nai". Much loved mother of Gary (Joanne), Sal (Pat), Tony (Michelle) and Maria (Tom) Palmer. She was the loved Nanna of Ryan (Jessica), Cory, Greg, Zack, Nick, Neil, Anara (Bobby), Jessica, Michael, Michelle, Stephanie and Olivia. Great Grandmother of Bobby and Desiree. She will be sadly missed by 7 sisters and 2 brothers all in Italy, her brother in law Vince (Arno), many dear friends and several nieces and nephews in Canada and Italy. Predeceased by 2 brothers in Italy. Bridget will always be remembered for her wonderful sense of humour which she shared with family and friends. **BENNER FUNERAL SERVICES**, 1105 Benner Ave., Fort Erie entrusted with arrangements. The family will receive friends on Saturday from 7-9 and Sunday from 2-4 & 7-9 Vigil prayers will be offered at 8 pm on Saturday evening. Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Monday morning at St. Michael's Roman Catholic Church at 11 am. Interment to follow in St. Joseph's Cemetery. If so desired, donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by the family.

In memoriam

ALAN SMITH
March 19, 2008
A whisper that March day,
You took a gentle call,
God took you by the hand,
And you quietly left us at.
You never failed to do your best,
Your heart was true and tender,
You only lived for those you loved,
And only those you love remember.
Your wants in life were simple,
Your love for us was true,
As long as we were happy,
You were happy too.
Tired and weary, you made no fuss,
But tried so hard to stay with us.
Always loving and remembering.
Florence, Sean, Turner, Austin and Colton



SAUNDERS, Wilma Ethel - Peacefully on Monday March 8th, 2010 at the Douglas Memorial Hospital in Fort Erie at the age of 89 years. Beloved wife of late Thomas Saunders (2003). Dear mother of Lydia Valvo (Richard) and Billie Bennett of Fort Erie. Loving Grandmother of Jeffrey Coates (Sylvia), Sheldon Coates (Leanne) and Dion Reinhardt. Predeceased by her sisters Grace Mooney (James) and Doris Morton (Bud) Fredrick Pepler (Katherine). Surviving are several nieces and nephews. Wilma will be remembered by many as the lady who made dolls for children in third world countries. She made approximately seventy dolls a month, with a goal to bring smiles to the faces of disadvantaged children. Special thanks to James Eagles of Intercede International for distributing her hand-crafted dolls all over the world. Wilma was the recipient of the Intercede International Volunteer of the Year Award for 2009 for her efforts. By Wilma's personal request, cremation will take place. Private interment will take place on a later date. As an expression of sympathy, memorial donations to the charity of one's choice will be appreciated and may be completed at **MORSE AND SUN FUNERAL HOME** (905-356-3550). The family of Wilma would like to acknowledge the staff at Douglas Memorial Hospital for their wonderful care and compassion. On-line guest book at morseandson.com.

Happy 40th Birthday Karen Hilston
Love, your family

Deaths

FRASER, Aileen (Sara) - On Friday March 5th, 2010, Aileen passed away peacefully at home. Predeceased by her husband Ernest Fraser (2004) and her daughter Marcia (1959). Loving and caring mother of Paula (Glenn) Tael, Kim (Tom) Balke, Barb (Ed) Fraser Poropat and Jackie (Tony) Molino. Doted grandma of Jenn (Scott), Kenny, Jared, Eric, Tamara, Karen, Sam and Jack and great grandson Preston. Aileen was born and raised in Stellarton, Nova Scotia before moving to Ontario. She leaves behind many relatives and friends. Aileen was a well respected registered nurse at Douglas Memorial Hospital for over 30 years. Cremation has taken place and a private family interment will be held. In memory of Aileen those who wish may make a donation to the Auxiliary at Douglas Memorial Hospital or to Fort Erie Station 4 fire hall, through the **WILLIAMS FUNERAL HOME**, Ridgeway.

A Memorial Donation has been made to



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Jerome J. O'Charchin, Funeral Director
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241 Ridge Road, Ridgeway

Bob Long
August 15, 1938 - March 13, 2008
It's hard to believe 2 years have past.
We love you and miss you.
Helen and Mary

You, dear parents, rest in sleep,
Your loving memory we will keep.

Memorial Verse #41
To remember a loved one with this verse
Call 1-866-541-6757 Today

In memoriam

DINAH BRYANT

In loving memory of a dear daughter, mother, sister and aunt who passed away March 13, 2005.
The depths of sorrow we cannot tell,
Of the loss of one we loved so well.
And while she lies in a peaceful sleep,
Her memory we shall always keep.
Lovingly remembered by Mum and Dad,
her son Jacob, her sisters
Audrey & Caroline and all the family.

20050313

IMMACOLATA PASSERO

Passed away March 16, 2006
If we could have a lifetime wish, a dream
that would come true, we'd pray to God
with all our hearts, for yesterday and you.
A thousand words can't bring you back,
we know because we tried and neither
will a million tears we know because we
cried. You left behind our broken hearts,
And happy memories too, we never want
ad memories we only wanted you.
Lovingly remembered by your
husband Lorenzo, all your children and
grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

20060316

In loving memory of a dear son

Shawn D. Sincoff

June 11, 1972 - March 16, 2009
The garment of his soul passed away,
The spirit and love light stay.
Tha echo of his voice, his smile,
Just as if they were with us
At the while.
Those whom we love go out of sight,
But never out of mind;
They are cherished in the hearts
Of those they leave behind.
Loving and kind in all his ways,
Upright and just in all his days;
Sincere and true in heart and mind,
Beautiful memories he left behind.
All our love, Mom & Dad

20090316

The Grief Recovery Outreach Program

Conducted by

Cathy Fraser

Certified Grief @Recovery® Specialist
In conjunction



- * Death
- * Relationship
- * Trust

* Or other significant emotional loss

The next session will begin March 23rd
continuing each Tuesday night for 4 weeks
Starting at 6:30 pm and going until about 8:30
For further information, or to register, please call
905 871 4444
or email
daren@vaxxinc.com

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Grief@Recovery
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The Grief Recovery Institute

In memoriam



RICHARD (RICK) BELWARD

In loving memory of a dear husband, father,
grandfather and Great Grandfather
who passed away March 16, 2008.
He is gone but not forgotten,
as divine another year.
Remember him with a smile today;
he was not one for tears.
Reflect instead on memories;
of all the happy years.
Recall to mind the way he spoke;
and all the things he said;
his eyes that shone with laughter.
So much of him will never die;
a special smile, a special face;
and in our hearts, a special place.
Lovingly missed by Noreen and Family

20080316

In memoriam

To have them here in the same old way,
Would be our greatest wish today.

Memoriam Verse #43
To remember a loved one with this verse
Call 1-866-941-6757 Today

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Minor Atoms motivated to bring home top spot

A local minor hockey team is hoping to put Fort Erie on the map, by winning the Ontario Minor Hockey Association championships.

In early February, the Fort Erie Jr. Meteors Minor Atom 'A' team advanced to the district quarter finals and defeated six opponents in a row.

After that, they travelled to the Windsor area and wrapped up its next series by winning three games.

In the semi-finals, they faced a much tougher opponent from the Guelph area. They lost the first game by a score of 5-2.

The next day, they came back from a 2-0 deficit in the game and eventually won 5-3, tying the series up at one game a piece.

The next two games were

played in Fort Erie and the Jr. Meteors won them both.

This finalized their spot in the Ontario finals, after winning the semi-finals.

The squad has been motivated by the tragic loss of Andy Passero, who coached many of the team's players over the last number of years.

Passero, a community volunteer and local businessman who was also highly active in minor hockey died in a car accident on the QEW in October.

His wife, Maria Passero said Andy would be extremely proud of this group of young hockey stars and how hard they've worked all year.

"He always talked about how much he loved coaching these young, talented

boys," she said.

Maria added that Andy always said that each player brings something unique to the team and that is what makes them so special.

"Their successful hockey journey this season is a wonderful memory to him," she said.

If Andy had a message to the team, she said he would probably say "one more round boys. Let's do it."

Members of the team are Ryan Toppazzini, Alex Toppazzini, JJ Passero, Tanner Maulucci, Isaac Lall, Drew Passero, Daylon Groulx, Berk Patterson, Hunter Zimmermann, Kenny Hoage, Owen Robins, Jakob Schulz, Neil Wells, Carter Gates, Spencer Hawkins and Talon Mills.

The team is coached by Peter Lall, Chuck Gates, Troy Hawkins and Wayne Groulx.

The Times would like to wish the team all the luck in the world this weekend.

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The Adult Literacy Council of Greater Fort Erie

-AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT-

For over 30 years the Adult Literacy Council of Greater Fort Erie has enriched our community by helping adults develop their basic reading, writing and math skills. Our goal is to utilize literacy development as a foundation to assist adults become more active within our community, their families and their working lives.

We are currently seeking new volunteer Board Members to provide special leadership and governance to the continuance of our mission.

If you have professional skill sets in:

- * Finance
- * Human Resources
- * Legal Affairs
- * Program Development
- * Adult Education
- * Policy Development
- * Marketing / Public Relations

and you want to truly make a difference in creating a more literate community, we invite you to apply for this unique opportunity to serve our agency's vision on our Board of Directors.

Expressions of interest are invited including a brief cover letter and biographic summary highlighting professional experience, areas of special skills and interest, volunteer experience and why this opportunity appeals to you. Please send to: kgreen@cogeco.ca

Deadline for submission is March 20, 2010.

MARCH IS TRUCK MONTH AT FALLS CHEV

1/2 TON

3/4 TON

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